

05/04/05

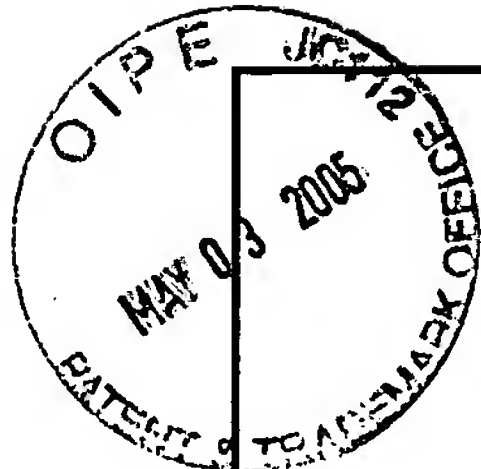
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PTO/SB/21 (09-04)

Approved for use through 7/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/604,306	
	Filing Date	July 9, 2003	
	First Named Inventor	John E. Johnson	
	Art Unit	3643	
	Examiner Name	PARSLEY, DAVID J	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	11	Attorney Docket Number	717119.336

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication TC
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> After Final	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information
<input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter
<input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below); return postcard
<input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund	
<input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement	<input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Table on CD	
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application	Remarks:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm Name	Blackwell Sanders Peper Martin, LLP		
Signature			
Printed Name	Mark E. Stallion		
Date	May 03, 2005	Reg. No.	46,132

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.
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Typed or printed name	Lisa Askew	Date	MAY 3, 2005

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.



PATENT
717119.336

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: John E. Johnson	:	Examiner: David J. Parsley
Serial No.: 10/604,306	:	Group Art Unit: 3643
Filed: July 9, 2003	:	Attorney Docket No.: 717119.336
For: NEURAL CONDUIT SPINAL CORD REMOVER	:	Customer No.: 027128
Last Office Action: March 7, 2005	:	Confirmation No.: 1305

AMENDMENT B

Under 37 CFR 1.116

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed March 7, 2005, please amend the above-identified application pursuant to 37 CFR 1.116 in accordance with the amendments and remarks as set forth herein.

INTRODUCTION

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Claims 1-18 stand rejected. The applicant hereby submits the following amendments and/or remarks, which are fully responsive to the Office Action. The applicant respectfully asserts that the claims are in condition for allowance. Please enter the amendments as indicated herein.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 2 of this document.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this document.